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New Buffalo Times

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issue 28, volume 83 www.newbuffalotimes.com Thursday, July 11, 2024

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FREEDOM ROCKS...

NEW BUFFALO CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE DAY

— PAGE 6 —

PHOTO OF FIREWORKS EXPLODING IN THE SKY ABOVE NEW BUFFALO PUBLIC BEACH BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

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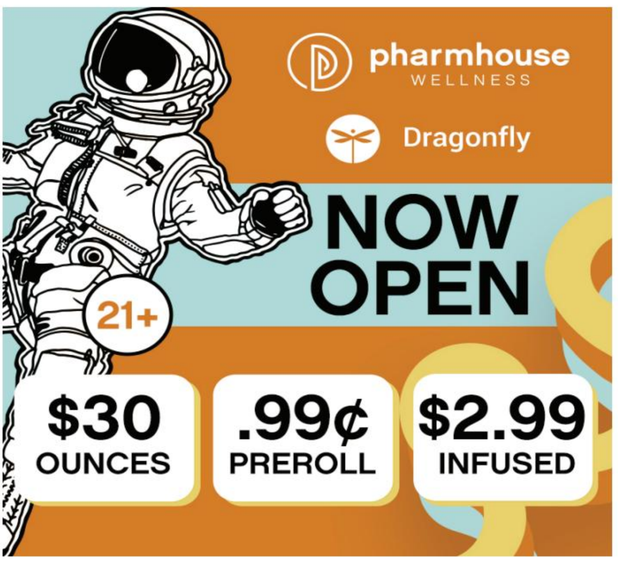

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PUBLICATION NUMBER 377960
CIRCULATION 5,000+ WEEKLY

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New exhibit to be celebrated with artist reception for Amy Renzulli's 'Full Circle'

ART AT THE ACORN

The Acorn Center for the Performing Arts will transform into a visual art space when the Art at The Acorn initiative welcomes artist Amy Renzulli and her exhibit "Full Circle," during a free reception that will be open to the public Tuesday, July 30.

The reception will feature an Artist Talk and Q & A with moderator Janet Davies. Light bites and a cash bar will be available.

The exhibit title, "Full Circle," refers to many things in Renzulli's life. It is the name of the farm that she and her husband own in South Haven, where they have plans to build an art barn and studio for hosting art workshops. Full Circle is also the path Renzulli's art has taken from being inspired by her artist father's landscape paintings to her vibrant, colorful abstracts and back to her own interpretive landscapes. As she moves through different styles, each stage informs the next.

The following is an artist statement from Renzulli: "My work is primarily in mixed media using acrylics, oil paints, markers, hand printed papers, and found ephemera. My process is guided by listening to my own intuition, to trusting my instincts and letting go of judgment and comparison. It is one of layers, marks, fixes and scrapes. I often find that the artwork TELLS ME what I need to know and what I need to express.It is meditative, calming and extremely enlightening. A final piece has had many lives that evolve over time. The end result is one of discovery and surprise."

"I find that the more I paint the more I learn about my life, emotions, and creative energy. It helps me deal with depression– my own and others around me. It counteracts threatening boredom and brings me joy. I want the visual impact of my work to make other people happy and draw the viewer in where they continuously discover new things. My inspiration comes from everything around me, including the creative relationships within my circle of family and friends."

"Almost all of my work is layered and filled with colors, shapes, words and images. It tends to be bold, bright, musical, and eclectic. I have always enjoyed the challenge of a sky full of beautiful clouds. And I am continuously drawn back to my own playful approach to making high impact, abstract art.

Coming from a family full of artists, Renzulli grew up with the gifts of painting, drawing, writing, and abundant art supplies and guidance. Renzulli's biggest artistic influence is her father, who made art a central part of his life and career after being a doctor for many years. She began her painting journey by mimicking the traditional landscapes he painted and seeking his input and feedback. She later found her own rhythm and style which continues to evolve. And she still seeks out the advice and guidance from her family of professional artists.

Amy Renzulli

Renzulli currently balances her time between two busy, successful School of Rock locations, two art studios and a burgeoning start-up with one of her creative sisters. She enjoys spending time with her husband and two young adult children and encouraging them to achieve their own dreams and goals.

Renzulli's focus is exploring, learning and getting her work out in the world. Her goal is to nurture and contribute to the art community as well as continue to paint and develop her artistic presence.

The reception starts at 7 p.m., with the program starting at 7:30 p.m. Free tickets are available at acornlive.org. The Acorn is located at 107 Generations Drive in Three Oaks. — **STAFF REPORTS**

All we own is our Reasoning.
— Dino N. Fatouros

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO
JOHN HUMPHREY, MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJEWSKI, JOHN HUMPHREY, BRIAN FLANAGAN, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
PETE RAHM, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, JACK ROGERS
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 10AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, BRADLEY BURNER, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, BILL MARSKE
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday October thru March at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER BLAKE O'HALLORAN, JAMES BRACEWELL, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

Berrien County Health Department educating community on dangers of underage marijuana use, providing resources to help

More than one in seven Berrien County teens has used marijuana in the past 30 days, according to the 2021-2022 Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth.

The Berrien County Health Department and Voice. Change. Hope. Alliance are once again teaming up to educate community members about the dangers of underage marijuana use and raise awareness about available resources. The campaign runs through September and shares information about the harmful impacts marijuana usage can have on those who are under the age of 21, in addition to providing resources for parents and caregivers.

"Though legal for individuals over the age of 21, marijuana still poses significant health risks for people who are underage," said Lisa Peeples-Hurst, public health promotion and prevention supervisor. "It's important for teens and caregivers to be aware of these risks and have the necessary tools to engage in healthy conversations about substance use."

"Though legal for individuals over the age of 21, marijuana still poses significant health risks for people who are underage," said Lisa Peeples-Hurst, public health promotion and prevention supervisor. "It's important for teens and caregivers to be aware of these risks and have the necessary tools to engage in healthy conversations about substance use."

According to the 2021-2022 MiPHY survey, nearly 28% of Berrien County high schoolers reported they had used marijuana in their lifetime. For high school seniors, the figure is closer to 37%.

Marijuana can be more damaging for individuals under the age of 21 because their brains are still developing. The National Institute on Drug Abuse found individuals who frequently used marijuana reported less satisfaction with life, more relationship problems and worse physical and mental health.

Parents and caregivers can help limit risk for young people in their life by talking to them about marijuana and other substances. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration has resources available to help get the conversation started.

For more information about this campaign and available resources, visit www.berriencounty.org/1580/get-the-dirt-on-weed. — STAFF REPORTS

A half-truth is the most cowardly of lies.
— Mark Twain

KEN SCHOON TO PRESENT AT DUNES LEARNING CENTER

Dunes Learning Center is happy to announce "Duneland Dynamics: Scenes and Stories of the Indiana Dunes," a presentation by Dr. Kenneth J. Schoon, to be held on Sunday, July 21 from 1:30pm to 3:30pm. This local expert will share photos and unique stories of some of the struggles and scams of the Indiana Dunes.

Schoon is a Northwest Indiana native, author, and professor emeritus at Indiana University Northwest. His presentation of "Duneland Dynamics" integrates dozens of colorful scenes of today's Indiana Dunes, along with a description of their ecological importance and stories from yesteryear. From the rugged beauty of the lake shore to the controversies and battles of residents, this is sure to be an interesting afternoon!

"We are delighted to welcome Ken for this intriguing presentation," said Heather Hahn Sullivan, Executive Director of Dunes Learning Center. "As a founding board member and advisor of Dunes Learning Center, he has such a deep knowledge of the area! We refer to his books about duneland geology and history in many of our programs."

The presentation will be held at Dunes Learning Center, located at 700 Howe Road, Chesterton, Indiana, 46304. The cost per person is $5, parking is free.

For more information, please visit www.duneslearningcenter.org/events, or call 219-395-9555.

— STAFF REPORTS

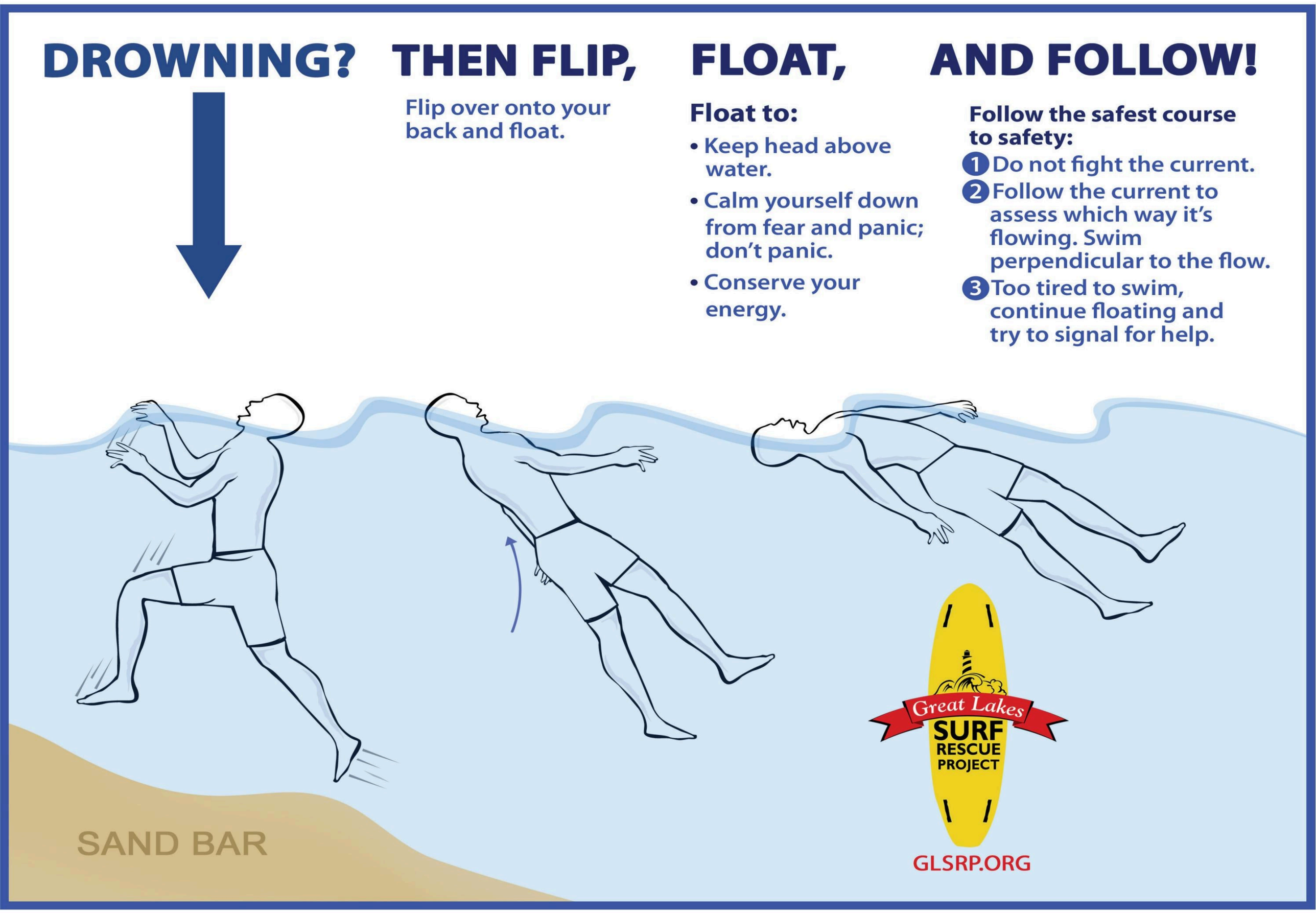
Local author to examine polarizing forces shaping political scene

Local author Bill Hurst will trace the evolution of crippling political division in the U.S. at a presentation at 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 16, at the New Buffalo Township Library.

Hurst examines what he calls "affective polarization," where strong dislike between the major American political parties, closely contested elections and winner-take-all politics have prioritized damaging the other party over governing effectively.

In this strictly non-partisan look at today's political scene, Hurst shows how polarization threatens democracy, how populism works and how disinformation and misinformation erode democracy from within. Institutional peculiarities in the U.S. exacerbate risks to democracy, Hurst says, but also present potential reforms that would encourage compromise.

Hurst is author of "Our Great Political Divide: Causes, Impacts and Prospects." He is treasurer of Baroda Township and has degrees from Williams and Northwestern's Kellogg School. This presentation is sponsored by the Friends of the New Buffalo Library, and is free and open to all. The New Buffalo Township Library is located at 33 N. Thompson Street in downtown New Buffalo. — STAFF REPORTS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FLOAT,
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• Calm yourself down from fear and panic; don't panic.
• Conserve your energy.
AND FOLLOW!
Follow the safest course to safety:
1 Do not fight the current.
2 Follow the current to assess which way it's flowing. Swim perpendicular to the flow.
3 Too tired to swim, continue floating and try to signal for help.
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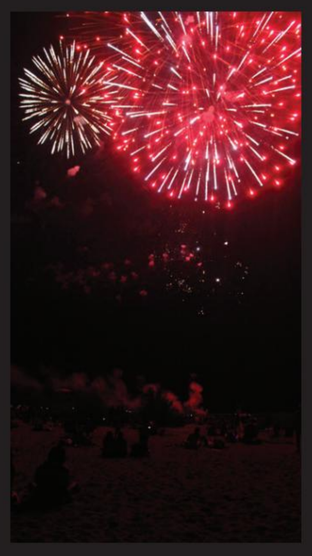
New Buffalo celebrates Independence Day

BY FRANCESA SAGALA

The fireworks returned to the Lake Michigan shore when visitors and residents gathered at New Buffalo Public Beach Wednesday, July 3, to view the city's annual full-on display of fireworks.

Guests spread out their beach blankets or dug out a place to sit in the sand and waited for the show, which was put on this year by Fireworks Extravaganza, to start. Boaters parked their lighted boats in the water, so they could view the sparkling colors explode in the sky from afar.

Children play on the playground before the show



The Maloni family carves out seats in the sand

Playing a game of volleyball before the fireworks show

A fireworks extravaganza at the beach

The crowd awaits the show against the orange-yellow sunset

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SCHOLASTICS

New Buffalo superintendent Bowen deemed 'highly effective'

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Ahead of his second year of helming the district, New Buffalo Area Schools Superintendent Adam Bowen has been deemed "highly effective" by the New Buffalo Area Schools Board of Education.

Per the evaluation that was approved at their Monday, July 8, meeting, board members find Bowen's performance highly effective in all areas of evaluation, including government and board relations, community relations and staff relations; business and finance and instructional leadership.

"Through his leadership and relationships, the school district has been able to navigate these key points: complete a three-year contract with interest based bargaining for the teacher contract; became knowledgeable in new state laws regarding bargaining; includes all staff and listening tours in the strategic goal processes; completion of the capital project of the elementary cafeteria, kitchen and service areas; continued coordination with River Valley School District to facilitate shared sports teams and create a smooth transition plan; encourage use of building councils when initiating changes; started coffee with the superintendent for all three buildings; budget management with the district's business manager, including prioritizing instructional expenditures; further the use of individual educational plans for all students and the use of student data to monitor success; instructional leadership focusing on professional development being linked to the school improvement plan and making sure the financial support is in place to support improvement goals, activities and tasks," the evaluation said.

Board members approved beginning the process of creating the New Buffalo Area Schools Foundation, with the understanding that it would be under the umbrella of the Berrien Community Foundation (BCF).

Dr. Michael Lindley, a past superintendent of the district, said that he, board members Denise Churchill and John Haskins, board president Lisa Werner and Bowen had met with Lisa Cripp of BCF.

The district has had investments with BCF for second homeowner scholarships and the Fine Arts Fund.

Last year, BCF earned 17% interest, and they charge 1% for their services.

Steps to create the foundation will include defining why the district would want to raise funds, such as for the fine arts, athletics or scholarships; establishing an advisory committee that could consist of two board members, an alternate and Bowen and other community members with legal and financial writing and ones who have experience with raising funds and determining how funds will be raised.

It could also be determined if mini grants could be provided, with Lindley adding that such grants are currently available from The Pokagon Fund and BCF and the district could "fill other gaps."

Werner said the district has been approached by people wanting to make donations to the district "for various reasons."

"So this would make it simpler in a lot of ways - finance wise and accounting wise," she said, adding that BCF would be "responsible for tax documents that are needed for donations."

In preserving and enhancing wetlands and trail systems in the approximately 32 acres of the Bison Preserve on Lubke Road, Lindley said he and Bowen met with Harbor Country Hikers President Pat Fisher and Amy Gillan, a professor at St. Mary's College. From there, he contacted a forester and biologist, who will be providing a proposal within the next couple of weeks to study the entire parcel. Grants will then be sought, with Lindley saying the forester is state certified and may have access to grants that will be "best suited for our purposes." His surveying and study of the parcel won't take as long as the biological survey, which will look at the property in all four seasons. After the biologist shares his information, Marcy Hamiliton, executive director/senior planner of the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, will assist in finding monies for preservation.

Lindley said Ryan Postema, executive director of Chikaming Open Lands (COL), may be providing an overview within the next week or two that explores preservation options with COL, such as if the district should enter into a management agreement or transfer the property to them.

The Studer Education Pillars and Goals for 2024-2029 were approved.

Bowen said that the Strategic Planning Steering Committee, which is composed of various directors, teachers and parents, created the pillars. From those pillars, administrators throughout the district created goals to match them. He said the next step is to create a scorecard that's related to the goals and will keep the district accountable until 2029, although it could be for three to five years "depending on how we excel toward those goals." Everything will be brought to the board for approval.

"That will be the strategic plan for the next three to five years," Bowen said.

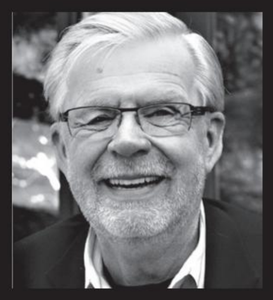
Board members approved the sale of the Building Trades house, which they approved to put on the market at their last meeting, located at 12346 Lubke Road.

The Emergency Operations Plan for school and emergency personnel was approved.

SPORTS

From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO



Many summer columns are filled with baseball stories. It seems as if this summer that won't necessarily be the case.

The Sox and Cubs are both really disappointing this season, and as many of you are aware, I prefer to look at the bright side of things.

Since June 1, the Sox have won 11 games and lost 23, making it difficult to talk positively about them, and the Cubs are 14 and 19, slightly better but even more disappointing. The Tigers are also 14 and 19 over the same time frame, making our favorite teams 39 and 61 over the last 100 games.

I guess that I could turn that into a positive after all, as at least one of those three teams wins slightly more often than daily. That's the equivalent of being on a train and seeing a light at the end of the tunnel only to discover that the light you're seeing is a freight train headed toward you.

So far this summer we've had a billion or two cicada's for about six weeks, then near 100 degree heat for a solid week, then a lot of bad baseball. I guess it's not so bad though. We've still got our friends and families and the football season is on the horizon.

Speaking of the football season, It looks to be a lot more promising than it has in years.

The Lions seem to be legitimate contenders for the Super Bowl, and the Bears have their fan base more excited than they've been since the team was doing the Super Bowl shuffle.

If everything plays out the way I think it will, both the Bears and Lions will be in the playoffs, while the Vikings and Packers fight it out to stay out of the cellar.

Not only should the Bears be good this year, but for the first time ever, they should be really exciting. With a new offensive coordinator, running back, a couple of receivers, and most of all, a highly-rated rookie quarterback leading the way, the Bears should provide a lot of thrills offensively. The defense was playing extremely well at the end of the season, and if both units end up being as good as advertised, it's going to be a great season.

That would make me forget the baseball season very quickly. Being a Cub fan, I'm certainly used to waiting until next year but for our football teams, the wait may finally be coming to an end.

Hope everyone had a delightful and safe July 4th holiday. I heard about the television show "Welcome to Wrexham", a series following the purchase by actors Rob McElhenney and Ryan Reynolds of Wrexham A.F.C., a struggling soccer team from Wales that is the third oldest professional association football team in the world. Maybe I won't miss baseball as much if the show is good.

George Carlin said, "Here's all you need to know about men and women: Women are crazy, men are stupid. And the main reason women are crazy is that men are stupid."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

A couple million plus I spent on clothes, you dig? N* shake my hand but he really wanna cut my throat, you dig? Brand new money, blue notes fallin' out my clothes, you dig? I'm a hot head but my heart cold, that b**** just won't unthaw .... — Lil Baby***

Tosi's Italian Countryside Restaurant celebrates 85 years

Celebrating the 85th Anniversary and honoring the legacy of Emil Tosi's authentic Italian cuisine at Tosi's Italian Countryside Restaurant in Stevensville, Michigan.

Celebrating this historic milestone of time-honored recipes, warm hospitality, and a continued drive for culinary excellence. No matter the occasion or special celebration, there's always a dish freshly prepared just for you.

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Tosi's Italian Countryside Restaurant is delighted to offer additional dinner entrees from Emil's private notebook, his favorite dishes for this special occasion. These dishes, made fresh from scratch and hand-made the way Emil liked, are a rare treat for their esteemed guests.

As proudly featured in TIME MAGAZINE – "One of 22 country Restaurants in the U.S. well worth the Trip", and recognized by Trip Advisor as a 'Multi Winner of Certificate of Excellence for over 10 Years', Tosi's Italian Countryside Restaurant is committed to maintaining the highest standards of quality and service.

Visit their website for additional history and information at www.tosis.com.

— STAFF REPORTS

A very Grand Beach golf cart parade

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

The famous, lavishly decked-out golf carts cruised through the streets of Grand Beach during the village's annual golf cart parade, which was held Saturday, July 6.

This year's golf cart lineup paid tribute to a variety of movies, songs, holidays such as Christmas (including Santa) and America's upcoming birthday. A golf cart was decked out in pink items galore as a homage to the "Barbie" movie, while children outfitted in "Ghostbusters" ensembles marched beside another one. Other carts were decorated for the Fourth of July holiday with all the red, white and blue trimmings – balloons, flags and sparkling star banners strewn across the top of each cart.

After the parade, everyone gathered for the annual Family Fest at Grand Beach Village Hall, where a dinner and children's activities awaited them.

CeCe and Sadie Santiago were outfitted in their Ghostbusters ensembles

A beach themed-golf cart rides along the parade route

A tractor brings up the rear of the parade

A golf cart decorated as a cicada lines up for the parade

An Olympic-themed golf cart makes its way down the parade route

The golf cart parade kicks off in Grand Beach

Kids collected candy along the parade route

Children dressed in costumes for the themed golf carts

Parade goers celebrate golf carts in Grand Beach

Children collected candy along the parade route

Golf carts were decked out with American flags

A Christmas in July-themed golf cart rides along the parade route

A Barbie-themed golf cart rides along the route

Families rode on the golf carts in the annual parade

The Groovy Cicada Comeback Tour golf cart rides along the route

The crowd cheers from the sidelines

The Lakeside Kazoo Band leads the parade

People of all ages played kazoos in the band

Dogs of all sizes marched in the annual parade

Lakeside salutes Independence Day

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

The sight of bicycles with red, white and blue streamers trailing behind them, antique cars and golf carts festooned with patriotic gear and people of all ages playing kazoos can only mean one thing to those who gather in Lakeside every year on July 4: The Lakeside Association's annual Fourth of July parade has begun.

Like parades from years past, this year's group of parade goers waved their American flags high. Marchers and vehicles lined up on Pier Street at the intersection with Lake Shore Road, while walkers and cyclists (and some dogs) gathered on the lake side of Pier Street at the intersection with Lakeshore Road before marching down the parade route. Cars, some of which were of the vintage variety, and golf carts rode past the cheering crowd that had gathered along the route.

Golf carts were decked out in patriotic gear

American flags could be seen from several vehicles

Parade goers decorated their golf carts with American flags

People of all ages marched in the annual parade

Golf carts paid tribute to the patriotic celebration

A patriotic club car makes an appearance

People decked out their golf cars in patriotic gear

People and dogs in decorated strollers in the parade

Children decked out their scooters in patriotic gear

American flags abounded at the annual parade

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FILM GROUP SELECTS DOCUMENTARY ON TIBET FOR JULY MEETING

The Harbor Country Film Group will screen the documentary "Shadow over Tibet: Stories in Exile" at its July 22 meeting at the New Buffalo Township Library.

Starting at 6:00pm, the meeting will begin with an introduction by Valerie Mrak, Michigan City-based producer of the film, followed by a screening and discussion.

"'Shadow over Tibet: Stories in Exile' gives us a rare glimpse into an exotic and endangered culture, and the fight of Tibet's exiled people to save it from extinction," said film group leader Eve Moran.

The film gives perspectives of two Tibetan exiles: one a Chicagoan, who is determined to become part of the American social fabric without abandoning his desire to return to Tibet, the other the Dalai Lama, religious and secular leader of Tibet-in-exile. Shot in the Himalayas and Chicago, the film uses a combination of original photography, archival footage and stunning stills.

The New Buffalo Township Library is at 33 N. Thompson Street in downtown New Buffalo. All are welcome at this meeting and there is no charge for admission. As always, free popcorn will be available.

The Harbor Country Film Group is sponsored by the Friends of the New Buffalo Library. — STAFF REPORTS

Fourth of July crash victim identified

BY STAN MADDUX

A La Porte man has been identified as the driver killed in a July 4 motor vehicle crash in southwest Michigan.

According to Berrien County Police, the victim was Austin Jones.

Police said Jones, 29, failed to negotiate a curve and struck a guardrail then went into a ditch and hit several trees.

Jones was pronounced dead at the scene.

The crash happened just after midnight on Deans Hill Road near Berrien Springs.

Investigators were still waiting for the results of a toxicology test to determine if alcohol or drugs were involved in the accident, police said.

Jones, who was a sales associate at an area truck stop, leaves behind a wife and three children, according to his obituary.

Hikers, Chikaming Open Lands to co-Sponsor hike at Burns Prairie

The Harbor Country Hikers and Chikaming Open Lands (COL) will be co-sponsoring a hike at COL's Burns Prairie Preserve at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 20, with COL Steward for Burns Prairie Robert Wagner leading the hike.

Burns Prairie includes restored, planted prairie; seasonal wetlands, and a one-time gravel pit. The wildflowers--black-eyed Susan, purple coneflower, butterfly weed and more--are especially abundant and striking, and there are native prairie grasses like big bluestem and Indian grass. The preserve had been devastated by human exploitation, but is now rejuvenating, with human help, to resemble the Southwest Michigan prairies buffalo once roamed.

The hike will begin with a brief introduction from Wagner, and will continue with a 1.5-mile hike. Physical difficulty of the hike is rated moderate, with rolling slopes. The Hikers recommends long pants, preferably tucked in, a sun hat and insect repellent. Hikers should bring plenty of water to avoid dehydration.

For more information about this hike, including driving directions, visit www.harborcountryhikers.com. Although membership is preferred, all are welcome at this event. — STAFF REPORTS

A Day in the Life

CONVERSATION IS IMPORTANT

BY LAWRENCE VON EBELER

I was taken to breakfast (or lunch, since it got so late) and Lynne was her usual, brilliant conversationalist.

Lynne grows words on the tip of her tongue, without even an ounce of food in her mouth. She is a genius and a beauty. For the last decade of two, she is still accompanied by Larry.

Anyway, we got to talking about talking and how it can be very entertaining, even without humor. If they're something of a wordsmith, talking to someone else can be intriguing.

Lynne should know: She's a master conversationalist, with a very wide field of interests. She manages to keep herself entrained by calling on friends, who pay special attention to her vocabulary. The words spill out of her, with more interest than most have in the pleasure of their own poetry. As a highly critical person, Lynne doesn't miss a nuance in conversation with her friends or any other warm body.

This is not to suggest that she has a limited choice for listening partners; everyone likes talking to Lynne. Well, almost everybody - she doesn't suffer fools lightly. She is always on point for conversation; however, she is not known for her tolerance for the less inspired. She gets annoyed when someone is not truly listening. In other words, she is not so selective of her listeners that she misses the true nature of the person in front of her.

Lynne has a natural affinity for "interesting things" coming from the proximity to an interesting conversation. She's not eavesdropping; rather, she makes it a practice to always be listening. For Lynne, there's no such thing as a conversation that is not worth listening to. Lynne has no patience for boring, senseless conversation. On the other hand, she doesn't want to miss a word of it. She has a natural curiosity for even the most common conversations. In other words, she is a snoop, insofar as she is an ever seeking fountain of knowledge. No one would dare talk at an orchestral evening, especially with a fine arrangement, if they're with Lynne and Larry. Both of them are geniuses because they truly listen to each other without interrupting the other person's monologue.

Each word is precious to Lynne. Like Lynne, we should take heed to cherish even the simplest of conversations.

'THE SOUND OF MUSIC' SING-ALONG TO TAKE PLACE AT ARTS AND EDUCATION CENTER

The Harbor Country Singers (HCS) will lead a summer outdoor sing-along of music from the movie "The Sound of Music" at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 25.

All are welcome to this free event. The sing-along will take place on Spring Creek Stage, Arts and Education Center, located at 14 Maple Street in Three Oaks, facing Dewey Cannon Park. If it rains, the sing-along will be moved to the shelter house at Carver Memorial Park, located at U. S. 12 and Elm Street in Three Oaks.

Songs from the musical by composers Rodgers and Hammerstein will include "The Sound of Music", "Edelweiss", "My Favorite Things", "Sixteen Going On Seventeen" and many more. Song books with music and lyrics will be provided. Musicians are welcome to bring instruments to play along. Please bring your own lawn chair or blanket.

Members Jill Christie, Donna Mitchell, Lance Olson, Pat Putnam and Diane Ruzevich will be song leaders, accompanied by HCS Director Maggie Martin on piano and School of American Music instructor Tom Parisi and member Lance Olson on guitar. — STAFF REPORTS

HOROSCOPE

JULY 11-17, 2024

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

There may be some issues between your image or philosophies and your resources or career. You may feel like you have to compromise part of yourself in order to do a good job or complete a project. The good news is you will be able to make things look good no matter how you feel about it.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

Some of the things you may have hoped for or suspected will be cleared up or come to fruition this week. This is a good time to sort out feelings and come to a place of understanding or compromise with emotional conflicts. Express those heartfelt emotions and get things off your chest.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

Any intense situations or problematic attitudes will come to a head now. Even if you have to deal with explosive people don't get discouraged. Their attitude will improve next month. Until then stay true to yourself and stay out of the way. Let them reach out to you next month.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

People from the past will be coming out of the woodwork bringing in opportunities to discuss why you may have disappeared or what caused arguments in the past. Now that you have had some space to heal, you can be completely honest about your feelings and perspectives.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

Your services will be needed this week. Unfortunately, you may feel like it's more than you can handle or the effort you put forward may not be recognized or reciprocated. The issue may be further complicated by your own career commitments. Saying no may be difficult but necessary.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

There may be some old baggage or ideas you are holding on to that may be blocking you from moving forward financially or trying new methods of handling cash. Early life experiences may need to be investigated to uncover where your ideas about wealth and prosperity were created.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

You may feel a lack of support at work, especially from management. If you are in management, you may not be able to instill the new programs you designed or envisioned. Things will have to wait until next month. Until then, do all you can to learn and get connected with the team.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

The way to move forward this week is to look at issues that happened twenty years ago and see how they are still playing out now. You may have to wait until the end of the month before you can really maneuver past the residuals. So, dive deep and delve into the past.

SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

Financial issues are brewing, which may make you feel like you can't do anything or go anywhere. Dig into your beliefs surrounding wealth and resources. Your way of thinking may be keeping you down. Clear out negativity and plant the seeds for the future growth.

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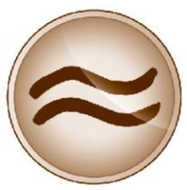
CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

You may experience some heaviness this week, especially with family or strong female figures. The friction you feel may likely stem from your views about yourself or where you fall in the pecking order. This is a good time to retreat and deal with your wounds in private.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



If it seems as if you are doing a lot for others and not taking time for yourself, perhaps its time to step back and evaluate that. The morning time is particularly important now, as it's a good time to charge up with good thoughts and expectations. Be honest about your needs with partners.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

There are things that need to addressed at the work place or with service providers. Change may not come easy now but if you network and delegate tasks, or spend some time researching new systems you will be ready to introduce changes next month. Be patient and do the research.

Death is the separation of soul from body.
— Chrysippus

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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

8								
9		3	5					
	5	7						3
6								
	8		4				5	
				6				8
3	7			2				9
	2			9	7			6
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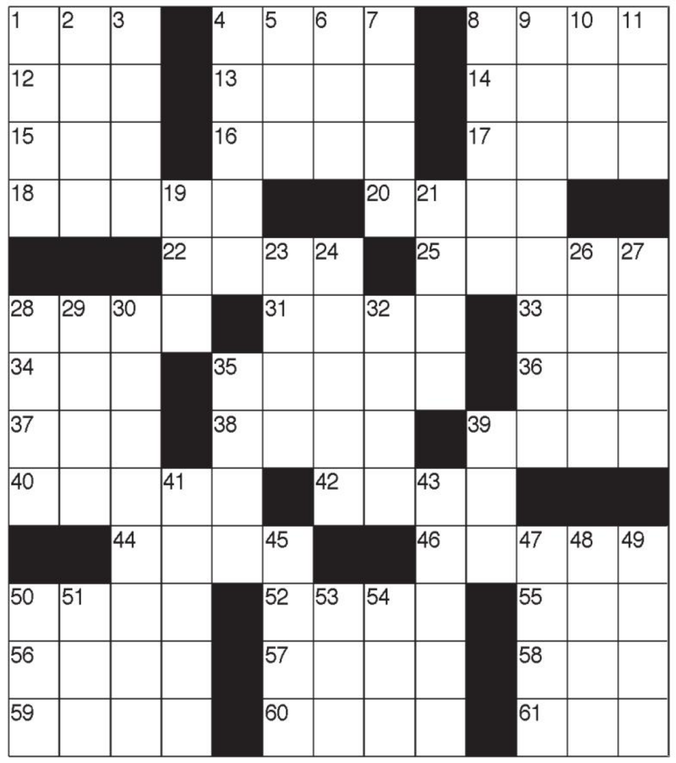
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Fiddler crab genus
4 S. Afr. language
8 Water (pref.)
12 Computer chip
13 Fetish
14 Musical instrument (brass)
15 Stray
16 Sayings (suf.)
17 Bird
18 Menotti hero
20 Reimbursed
22 Substantial
25 Rice bran
28 Beer ingredient
31 Philistine city
33 Soul or spirit (Fr.)
34 Arrival (abbr.)
35 Spread, as gossip
36 Birthplace of Constantine
37 Yale student
38 Gain
39 Eight days after feast
40 Santa's reindeer
42 Old
44 Thunderfish
46 Music for nine
50 Boor
52 Rhine tributary
55 Amer. Automobile Assn. (abbr.)
56 Predicate
57 Heddles of a loom
58 Receipt (abbr.)
59 Prow
60 Facile
61 "Lady of the Lake" outlaw

DOWN

1 Fertilizer ingredient
2 Bulblike stem
3 W. Indian hog plum
4 Fine linen
5 Arab. garment
6 Own (Scot.)
7 Eucalyptus secretion
8 Heart auricle
9 Arc
10 Where (Lat.)
11 Mulberry of India
19 Hours (abbr.)
21 Malay law
23 Taj Mahal site
24 Love of Petrarch
26 Bowfin
27 Tax
28 This one (Lat.)
29 Fillet
30 Yellow
32 Criticize
35 Second brightest star
39 Jap. celerylike plant
41 Same (Lat.)
43 Opponent
45 Carplike fish
47 Matgrass
48 Apiece
49 Braz. armadillo
50 Television channel
51 Buddhist column
53 Antiaircraft artillery (abbr.)
54 Indian dance drama



This year's La Porte County Fair Queen living the dream

BY STAN MADDUX

This year's La Porte County Fair queen was hatched from a farm raising mostly chickens for meat and eggs.

Samantha Wilson fell just short of her childhood dream as first runner-up in last year's fair pageant.

Wilson said being crowned queen this year has kept her very busy from her commitment to attend many of the fair related events but she wouldn't have it any other way.

"It's a lot of fun. I'm super grateful for the opportunity," she said.

The fair, which opened July 6, runs through Saturday.

Wilson said she always dreamed about being fair queen but never thought she would be able to enter the pageant because of her busy schedule that included raising rabbits and other projects like sewing during her 10 years in 4-H as a youth.

Just enough room in her free time opened up, though, after her eligibility in the 4-H program expired.

She didn't expect to receive such a favorable response from the judges.

"I was like, you know what, I'm not in 4-H anymore so I might as well give it a shot and I did and I surprised myself," she said.

The 2022 graduate of New Prairie High School grew up just inside the La Porte County line west of New Carlisle on 34 acres used mostly now for raising chickens for meat and eggs.

"We provide for ourselves there. It's really nice. Peaceful," she said.

Her parents also raised corn and soybeans for a while along with a few horses but stopped because of the demands from their full time work schedules.

Wilson said there are still a few goats kept on the property.

She will be sophomore in the fall at Indiana Wesleyan University where she is majoring in psychology.

Eventually, Wilson said she hopes to get a master's degree in counseling psychology and become a mental health therapist.

This year's first runner up is Kayle Dove.

The 19 year old La Porte native is going to be a sophomore at Purdue University where she's studying business management.

She hopes to make a living in sales after receiving her degree.

Dove said she was never in 4-H but often helped friends in 4-H with their livestock and with an interest in photography took pictures of them while they were showing their animals during the fair.

She said meeting new people is among the things she likes most about her role in the queen's court.

"I've definitely made some lifelong friendships from this pageant," she said.

The fair princess is Lyla Bannwart, who lives on about 3,000 acres outside Fish Lake.

Bannwart, 17, was also named Miss Congeniality in this year's fair pageant.

Her family raises corn and soybeans along with beef.

She had difficulty containing her excitement while describing what it feels like to serve in her official capacity with the fair.

"I made so many connections and I just love talking to people and part of the job is talking to people. It's so much fun," she said.

Bannwart will be a senior in the fall at La Porte High School.

Chicken flying winner has eye for talent

BY STAN MADDUX

A boy whose chicken easily outdistanced most of her flying competitors during the La Porte County Fair Monday, July 8, apparently has an eye for talent.

Matthew Knowlton, 11, of Rolling Prairie won the Chicken Flying Competition, one of the most popular of the 4-H youth contests held annually during the fair.

His bird, "Nugget," advanced to the finals with a flight of more than 72 feet, which was close to 10 feet longer than any other chicken in the four weight divisions.

Her winning flight was just shy of 35 feet but still over 5 feet longer than the second-place finisher.

Knowlton, who's in his first year in the 4-H program, said he was excited and surprised at how well Nugget performed.

He said the only time he saw her fly was after she recently escaped from her pen at home and went airborne for a short distance, while he and members of his family tried catching her.

"I didn't expect her to fly that far. I'm glad," he said.

His mother, Nicki, said Nugget was purchased in April at a local farm supply store just for trying to win the contest.

She and her son noticed Nugget seemed to have more spunk than the other chicks and felt such energy would translate into being a strong flyer.

"Mostly she was small and feisty. Our goal is accomplished," she said.

Knowlton said he plans to return to the competition with Nugget next year to give her a chance at defending her title.

Sarah Peterson, 14, of La Porte came in confident about her bird's ability to fly judging by how often she and her other chickens "go into the trees at home."

The distance flown by her chicken, "Regina George," was just over 5 feet short of winning the title but nearly ten feet better than the third-place finisher.

Each of the chickens started flapping their wings to try and stay airborne after being shoved from about a 10-foot high platform.

Carolyn Krause, who helps put on the event as a volunteer member of the Poultry Committee, said there were about 50 entries in this year's contest, or roughly a dozen more than last year.

She said chickens are much better at running.

Krause said spectators seem to get a real kick out of watching the birds dodge volunteers chasing them with nets to keep them from escaping the show arena after landing.

"They're not usually a flying bird at all but they fly some distances. We've had them over 50 feet at times," she said.

The fair, which began on July 6, runs through Saturday, July 13.

Pioneer Land, an 1800s style village consisting of more than a dozen buildings reflecting that time period, is also open throughout the fair.

The buildings include a log cabin, blacksmith shop, one room schoolhouse and general store.

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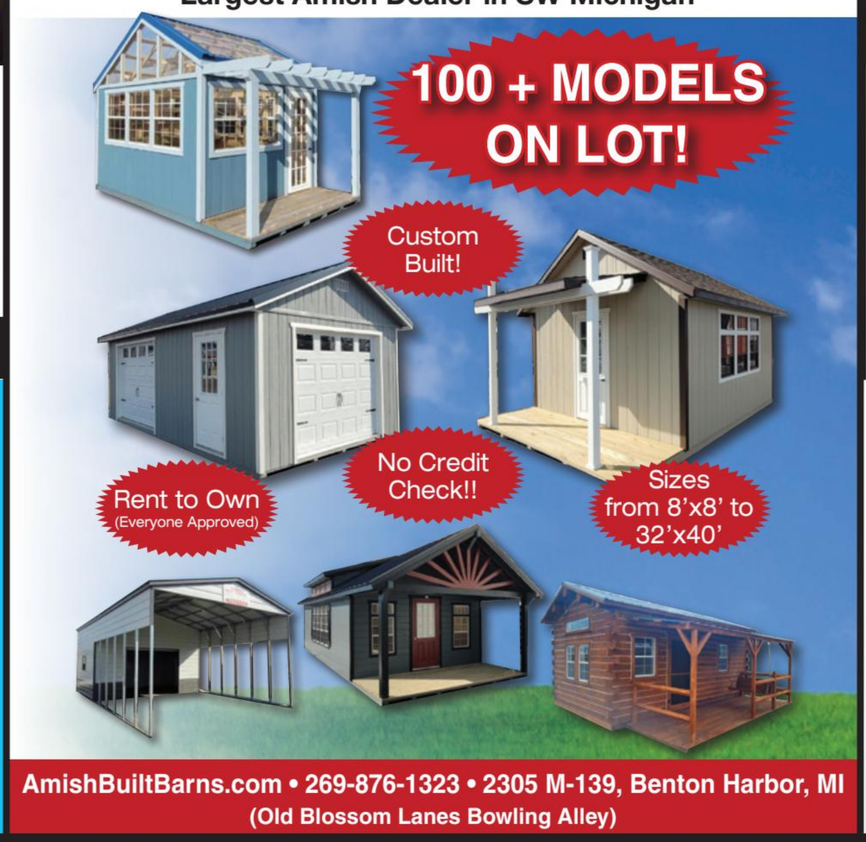

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Encouraging signs in war on mint crop losses from grubs

BY STAN MADDUX

Researchers from Purdue University are trying to solve a problem mint growers are having with crop loss from the Asiatic garden beetle, an invasive species that feeds on the hair-like roots of the plants.

While the jury is still out, the ongoing research at a mint field in the northern part of the state is showing early positive results.

"I'm very excited about this. It's been a lot of work," said Elizabeth Long, an entomologist at the land grant college in West Lafayette.

Long is leading the ongoing effort primarily at the 800 acres of mint farmed by Larry Wapple, Sr. and his son, Larry Wappel, Jr. in Starke County.

The objective is to kill the grubs while they're still underground with nematodes, which are ground burrowing round worms and a natural predator of the beetle.

In September, Long said nematodes were applied in some areas of his fields and recent soil samplings revealed they were still there in strong numbers.

Long said soil samplings to be taken in the coming months, when the grubs are large enough to see, will reveal if there's been a reduction in the amount of the plant killing species.

"That's what we'll know come this fall, when we go out and do that next sample," she said.

The hope is the nematodes, through reproduction, will grow in numbers to control the grubs permanently, without use of insecticides on the perennial mint plants.

The grubs hatch from the eggs of the female Asiatic Garden beetle, burrow into the ground and feed off the roots of the plants.

Long said the infected plants wither and can die from their damaged roots no longer being able to supply a sufficient amount of nutrients.

Wappel, Sr. said problems with the Asiatic Garden beetle at his farm started about 10 years ago.

His crop losses of up to 50 percent in some fields have been heaviest in more recent times.

"When you have the number we have had the past three years, it's just impossible to grow mint unless we treat it," he said.

Wappel, Sr. said that, while he has insecticide, he doesn't want to use it unless he has to.

Long said insecticide will kill the grubs as they ingest the chemicals from the roots. Whether a need exists can be difficult to gauge, since beetles are difficult to notice because they fly only at night.

There's also a belief insecticides will have an impact on the flavor and other qualities of the mint used in products like chewing gum, candy and skin products.

"Insecticide, if applied, is then in all of the plant tissues," she said.

Long said not all mint growers are being impacted by the species, which seem to thrive best in sandier soils.

The Wappel mint farm in San Pierre grows strictly peppermint.

One of their major customers is the Wrigley Company, which is widely known for its chewing gum.

According to USDA, more than 80 percent of mint production in the U.S. happens in Washington, Oregon and Idaho, while much of the rest comes from Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan.

Long said she began putting together the framework of her research after the Wappels, who were looking for answers, reached out to her in 2020.

She received grants from USDA to help cover the costs of her research, which included purchasing nematodes the Wappels applied to their fields with traditional farm equipment.

"If we don't treat this stuff, we don't have a sustainable crop," Wappel said.

Corn and soybeans are the primary crops at his farm, which also grows other specialty crops like potatoes and cucumbers.

POLICE SNARE FENTANYL SHIPMENT FROM WEST COAST

More suspected drug mules passing through the area with about two pounds of fentanyl could face substantial prison time.

The latest arrests stem from an ongoing effort to intercept large drug shipments before reaching their destinations.

Andres Rojas, 28, and Luis Cisneros-Ramirez, 42, both of Toledo, Ohio along with Sandra Perez-Arriaga, 40, from Jaslico, Mexico are charged in La Porte Circuit Court with Level 2 felony dealing in cocaine or a narcotic drug.

According to court documents, a La Porte County Police officer on July 5 stopped an eastbound vehicle for traffic violations at the Indiana Toll Road plaza at Rolling Prairie.

The investigation revealed they were traveling non-stop from southern California in a rent a car, which is not uncommon when people are transporting large quantities of narcotics across the country.

Police said the officer's suspicions grew when one of the occupants seemed increasingly nervous, judging from his rapid breathing and heart beat showing through his shirt.

With help from a K-9, a vacuum sealed package of fentanyl pressed into the shape of a brick was located in a hidden compartment below the cup holders on the center console, according to court documents.

Police said the estimated street value of the drug was roughly $35,000.

According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency website, two pounds of fentanyl has the potential to kill as many as 500,000 people.

The ongoing effort here to curb the shipment of narcotics dates back to 2017 when La Porte County joined Lake and Porter counties in a federally designated High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area or HIDTA.

That allowed for more federal and state law enforcement resources to be tapped into for doing things like intercepting drug shipments.

La Porte County Police Capt. Derek Allen said the sheriff's office with help from HIDTA has two officers on local highways targeting vehicles they suspect might contain a large amount of narcotics.

"It's not just random deputies that are up there. They're specially trained. These guys are just that good," he said.

Among the many busted shipments over the years happened in May when over 60 pounds of fentanyl and cocaine were seized from a vehicle pulled over for traffic violations also on the Indiana Toll Road near Rolling Prairie.

It's believed those drugs obtained in California originated from Mexico and were destined for New York.

Allen said the effort is worth it because some of the narcotics heading elsewhere could trickle back into the community and there's always a chance of stopping a drug shipment from reaching a local destination.

"We're doing what we can to keep it out," he said.

Each of the three suspects could face anywhere from a 10 to 30 year sentence. — STAN MADDUX

Food used again in latest prison smuggling attempt

BY STAN MADDUX

Employees at Indiana State Prison using food to hide drugs and tobacco intended for offenders seems like a growing trend.

Most recently, an ISP nurse is accused of trying to smuggle cocaine and marijuana inside a frozen bowl of lasagna.

Regina Davis, 46, of Wanatah is charged in La Porte Superior Court 2 with two counts of trafficking with an inmate, both Level 5 felonies.

According to court documents, Davis reported for work on July 3 and was having her property scanned as a standard procedure before entry is allowed into the prison.

Two security officers monitoring an x-ray machine felt there was something odd about the image of her bowl of lasagna.

After chipping into the frozen pasta layers, two packages containing 84 grams of cocaine and 49 grams of marijuana were discovered in the food.

Initially, Davis said she did not known the lasagna contained any contraband, according to court documents.

Her story changed, though, when shown pictures of the drug filled packages recovered from her cell phone, authorities said.

Davis said she was given instructions by unknown individuals on where to pick up the contraband and how it should be given to a person showing up to her work station using code language, according to court documents.

According to court documents, Davis told investigators the safety of her and a family member was threatened if she did not comply.

In late May, two correctional officers at Indiana State Prison were arrested when caught trying to enter the facility with contraband.

Janise Clark, 38, of South Bend allegedly had two vacuum sealed bags of marijuana between two slices of bread wrapped in plastic like a sandwich.

When questioned, Clark told investigators she had already made close to $20,000 bringing marijuana and tobacco to inmates over an undisclosed period of time, according to court documents.

Lowreatha Roberts, 56, of Michigan City is accused of reporting for work with frozen balls of tobacco she claimed were "brownies baked in peanut butter," authorities said.

Court documents revealed all of the individually wrapped tobacco balls inside two Ziploc type baggies weighed just over 19 ounces.

It's alleged the tobacco was intended for offenders, but Roberts denied receiving any money to deliver the contraband and claimed it was her first smuggling attempt at the Michigan City prison.

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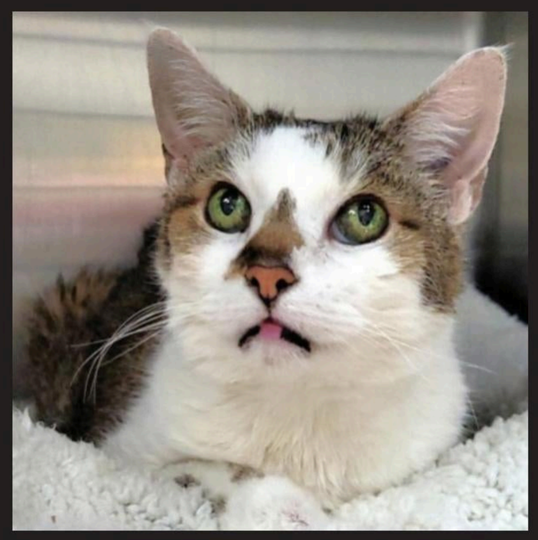
PET OF THE WEEK



CANNOLI

Cannoli is about 11 years old, so she's well-trained on how to be the best girl and someone's best friend. Cannoli is relaxed and quite low-maintenance. At this point, there aren't many questions as to what her personality is like — she is very loving, gentle, and has that typical "goodness" that senior pets tend to have. Cannoli is spayed and up-to-date with her vaccinations. She always finds the coziest places to curl up in for a nap. If there is a plush kitty bed, Cannoli will find it. As a senior queen, Cannoli would love a calm household.

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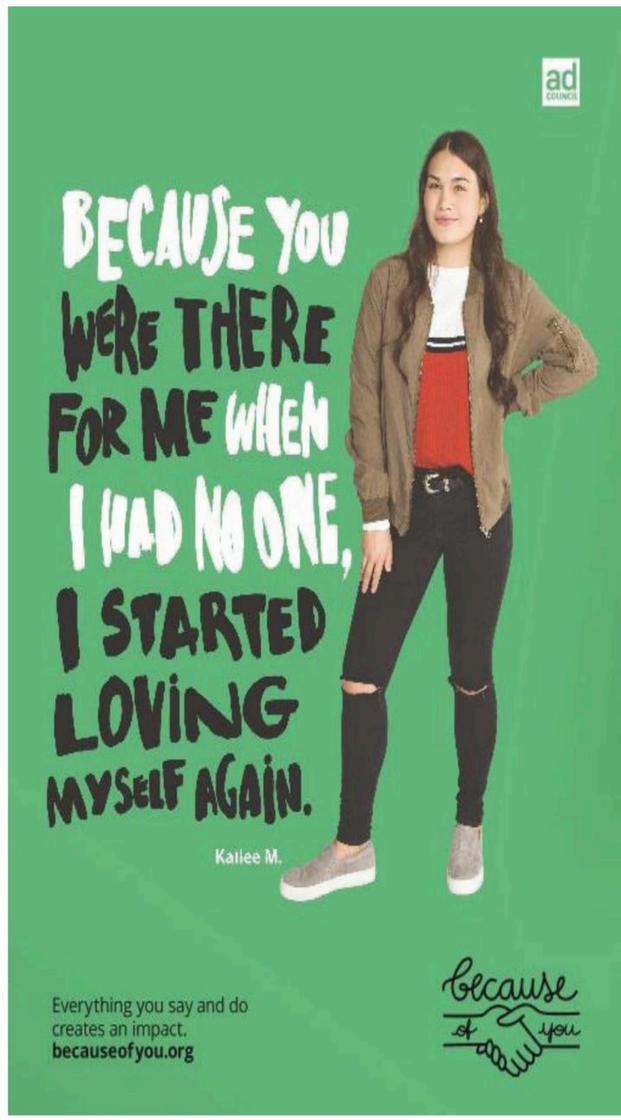
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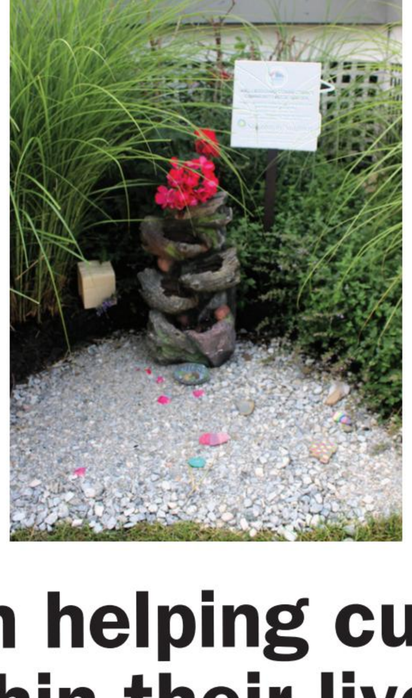
Milan and Sue Popovic stand by a shelf of wellness products in Well Building Connection

The community is invited to paint rocks for the garden outside Well Building Connection



Teas, tea sets and other items for the home are displayed at Well Building Connection

Well Building Connection helping customers build wellness within their lives

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Sue and Milan Popovic said that it was the Covid-19 pandemic that inspired them to open Well Building Connection, a one stop shop for everything you need to stay physically and mentally well.

"That was big (then) - keeping people healthy at work," Sue said.

As someone who's worked in commercial cleaning, Sue used a variety of products to keep offices free of bacteria and germs in the midst of the pandemic.

Keeping clean at home isn't a bad idea, either.

"Why not use those things in our house - a lot of people are working from home, so why not put stuff to keep healthy in your own home?" she said.

Working in facilities management as well as having a background in energy management, Milan is well versed on ways to keep one's home safe and healthy.

"I built a house out here, so I know the ins and outs of construction - getting the permits past the DEQ (now EGLE), the Army Corps of Engineers," he said, adding that he's also built a lot of commercial properties throughout the United States.

Sue said they try to follow the 10 concepts in the WELL Building Standard, with several large employers starting to focus on becoming WELL certified. Customers will find a variety of products to keep the environment where they work and live, or wherever else they roam, well: tap water purifiers, portable outdoor water filters, hydrogen water generators and air quality monitors that measure how clean the air is in a building. Instead of the antistatic guns that Sue discovered are "really unhealthy for the environment" that were being used during the pandemic, Well Building sells disinfecting spray guns for a light mist disinfecting.

"I built a house out here, so I know the ins and outs of construction - getting the permits past the DEQ (now EGLE), the Army Corps of Engineers," he said, adding that he's also built a lot of commercial properties throughout the United States.

Since "mind" and "movement" are among the WELL concepts, shelves are set aside for items related to mind games (such as a knitting machine), aromatherapy products, such as candles and oils and crystals for crystal therapy. Different kinds of bedding, including mostly bamboo and some natural linen bedding, is also showcased. Because Sue said that "you can't have wellness without tea and coffee," she said that they plan on selling different coffees, along with their tea and tea sets and infusers.

There's also clothing. Soon, Sue said they hope to get anti-radiation/EMF clothing, which she said is relevant due to people's large usage of cell phones. Also included are dress shirts that have zippers instead of buttons, which tend to open in the front often.

Sue and Milan stay up to date on the most environmentally friendly products through their son, who has a Ph.D. in environmental engineering. Currently, he works for the Navy, doing inexpensive cleanups for the military of "forever" chemicals, such as PFAS's.

Per her son's recommendation, she went to another supplier to get a different kind of soap.

"He said, 'Mom this isn't good in California,' so I had to go to another supplier to get more organic products... It's good to have somebody who can really consult because he works with chemicals more," Sue said.

The community rock garden that is located near the entrance also shows Sue's and Milan's commitment to wellness for the community: Paint a rock for the garden with acrylic marker or paint 3 and make a minimum donation of $25 that will go to support Neighbor by Neighbor, a non-profit organization which assists southwest Berrien County neighbors in need.

While the couple currently lives in Naperville, they bought property in the area in the early 1980s. Milan, who's been vacationing in the area since he was young, said he sold the house he built in Grand Beach before buying the building where Wellness Building is located and the one next door.

As a homage to the building being the site of the former telephone company, Sue and Milan have an antique phone with a working ringer and pictures of those who once worked there.

"We just love embracing history and preserving it - not just tearing down and rebuilding...I think it's really important to do that," Sue said.

Well Building Connection is located at 105 West Merchant Street in New Buffalo. Current hours of operation are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

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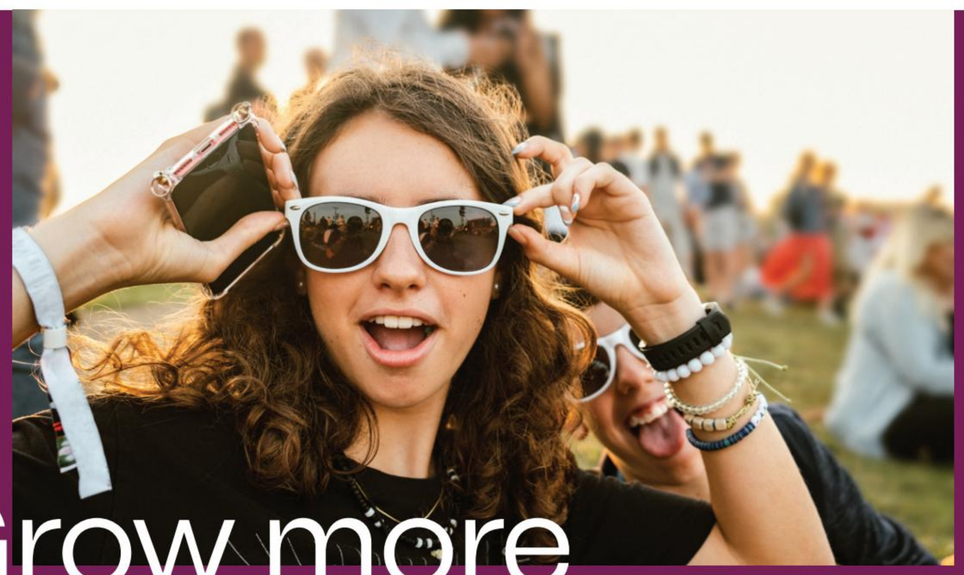

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